

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 10, 13, and 15 are amended. Claims 1, 10, 13 and 15 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 1-12 and 18-22 are allowed, and that claims 13-17 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Amendments to Independent Claim 10

The Examiner is advised that independent claim 10 has been amended merely to add a phrase that was inadvertently not included in the Amendment filed on July 5, 2007.

This amendment makes no change to the subject matter contained in claim 10 which the examiner has found to be allowable. Accordingly, independent claim 10 remains in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has set forth certain instances wherein the claim language is not clearly understood.

In order to overcome this rejection, Applicants have amended claims 13 and 15 to correct each of the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Therefore, independent claims 13 and 15 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Claims 1-22 are now in condition for allowance. This application is ready for issue.

Application No.: 10/791,739
Amendment dated December 7, 2007
Reply to Office Action of September 7, 2007

Docket No.: 2830-0155P
Art Unit: 3747
Page 13 of 13

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.


If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Date: December 7, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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